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March 16, 2010

Ms. Anna Marie Young  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Data Improvement of California's Protected Lands – SUPPORT**

The California Council of Land Trusts strongly supports the proposal before the Strategic Growth Council that would provide funding to improve protected areas data for California. Ensuring complete and comprehensive data on parkland, open spaces, wilderness and more is not only crucial for the planning that grants from SGC will enable, but also more widely useful to many public and private efforts to build more sustainability into California's future.

The Council is an association of land trusts and related non-governmental organizations in the state. Our purpose is to act as the statewide voice for local land and water conservation. Our member land trusts engage in strategic land planning and on-the-ground conservation acquisitions in most areas of California.

Over the past five years, CCLT has actively supported the development of better data on protected areas, working with the non-profit GreenInfo Network to create the first regional inventories in the Central Coast and in Southern California, and assisting them more generally on inventories in other parts of the state. Through these efforts we continue to recognize how critical it is to have accurate information about the lands that are protected in perpetuity. These inventories:

- 1) Enable our member land trusts to more accurately know their landscapes and to prioritize their acquisition planning.
- 2) Support local and regional general plans and special studies -- these affect the work of land trusts significantly by setting the overall framework for conservation and development choices.
- 3) Enable regional or statewide analysis by providing a consistent set of information for all counties of the state

Finally, we are pleased to see that the proposal being recommended to SGC has a special emphasis on easement data and how that is gathered and disseminated. This is a significant issue in California that must respect the confidentiality of some easement data while providing public accountability. We believe the current proposal acknowledges this need regarding data sharing before the publication of easement data to qualified users, and stand ready to work with SGC and other partners to help develop the needed protocols and guidelines.

For these reasons, we support this important project request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darla Guenzler".

Darla Guenzler, Ph.D  
Executive Director